

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR
1941

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) A. B. Follows, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health, Part Time.
and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr. E. Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Redditch. Part time.

Dr. E. P. Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin.),	) Feckenham "	"
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))	
	) Beoley "	"
Dr. W. T. Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas. 1922)	) Ipsley	
	) Upper Ipsley	

PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

Dr. E. Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Redditch.

Dr. E. P. Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin.)	) Feckenham.
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.))
	) Beoley.
Dr. W. T. Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas. 1922)	) Ipsley.
	) Upper Ipsley.

- (b) G. H. Champion, Cert. "S.I.B."
Senior Sanitary Inspector.
Meat and Food Inspector.
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

T. Hope, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (On active service).

R. Hill, Cert. "S.I.B."
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (Temporary)
Meat and Food Inspector.

Miss A. Lilley - Clerk.

Mrs. W. Shaw - Clerk. (Temporary)

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my eighth Annual Report on the Health of the Redditch Urban District. The Report is arranged in accordance with the Ministry of Health instructions contained in Circular 2604, which confines the Report to statistical matters and such new developments as may be safely mentioned in wartime.

The health of the people has been good, in fact, better than was expected, and in spite of the various wartime factors such as hard work and fatigue, rationing, overcrowding and blackout conditions, statistics fail to show any marked deterioration in the health of the community. The birth rate (15.77) is higher than that in England and Wales (14.2) and the death rate (12.37) is higher than the England and Wales figure, (12.9). Measles was responsible for much illness amongst the child population, although this assumed epidemic proportions generally, and there was one fatal case amongst the 587 cases notified. There were fewer Scarlet Fever cases this year (36) compared with 88 the previous year. Much progress has been made towards securing the immunisation of as many children as possible in order to meet the increased risks which arise out of war conditions. The Diphtheria immunisation campaign, started here as early as 1933, has always been energetically pursued and is now beginning to show good results. The number of cases notified for 1941 has again remained low (see page 12) and of the 12 cases of Diphtheria none had been previously immunised.

Communal feeding and the feeding of school children has made great strides during the year, a factor which is bound to be of great benefit to the health and nutrition of the people.

The first County Day Nursery, Church Green, was opened in January, 1941, providing for 40 children; it has been a great success from the day of opening.

I wish to thank the Councillors, Officials and Staff for their continued co-operation throughout the year.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	12,059 acres.
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1940	..	..	..	..	..	7,224.
1941	..	..	..	..	..	7,264
Rateable Value (1st October, 1941)	..	..	..	..	..	£128,834
Sum represented by Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£508

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population 1941	1940	Eng. & Wales 1941
Legit.	388	192	196			
Illegit.	10	5	5	15.77	16.15	14.2

STILL BIRTHS

	Total	M	F	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births 1941	1940
Legit.	8	4	4		
Illegit.	-	-	-	19.70	34.91

DEATHS

	Total	M	F	Death Rate per 1,000 Population 1941	1940	Eng. & Wales 1941
	312	165	147	12.37	13.11	12.9

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Deaths 1941	Rate per 1,000 Total Births 1941	1940	Eng. & Wales 1941
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	7.48	0.48)
Other Maternal	-	-	-)
Causes	-	-	-	1.75)
Total	-	-	7.48	2.23)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	Total	M	F	Infant Mort. Rate per 1,000 live births. 1941	1940	Eng. & Wales 1941
Legit. 25)	12	13		66.67	69.77	59.0
Illegit. 2)	2	-				
				M.	F.	Rate 1941
Legit. Infants per 1,000 legit. live births				12	13	63.29
Illegit. Infants per 1,000 illegit. live births				2	-	200.0

DEATHS from:-

	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 population 1941	1940	Eng. & Wales 1941
Measles	1	0.04	Nil	0.03
Whooping Cough	-	-	Nil	0.06
Small Pox	-	-	Nil	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	Nil	0.00
Diphtheria	2	0.08	Nil	0.07
Appendicitis	-	-	0.04	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0.04	Nil	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	0.12	0.08	0.25
Influenza	2	0.08	0.16	0.19
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	10	0.39	0.25	-
Other Tuberculosis	4	0.16	Nil	-
Cancer	56	2.22	1.62	-
Heart Disease	72	2.85	4.13	-
Pneumonia (all forms)	27	1.07	0.75	1.25
Bronchitis	23	0.91	0.83	-
Violence & Suicide	19	0.75	0.62	-
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	17	0.67	0.70	-
Diarrhoea & Enteric (under 2 years)	(2	4.94	4.94	5.1
	(Per 1,000 live births			

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are the same as those given in my previous report.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance for non-infectious, accident and maternity cases is under the control of the Urban District Council, the vehicle being kept at the Council Depot, George Street.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME

There are no changes to report in the District Nursing Associations.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Clinic	Situated	Accommodation	By whom provided	Times of holding
Redditch Child Welfare Centre	Old Vicarage B'grove Road	4 Rooms	County Council & voluntarily	Monday 2 p.m. Thursday 2 p.m.
<u>School Clinic</u>				Thursday 10 a.m.
<u>Dental Clinic</u>	do.	3 Rooms	County Council	Wed. and Fri. 10 a.m.
<u>Orthopaedic Clinic</u>				Monday 10 a.m.
<u>Diphtheria Prevention Clinic</u>	do.	2 Rooms	R.U.D.C. & County Council	2nd and 4th Thursday 10 a.m.
<u>Ante Natal Clinic</u>	do.	2 Rooms	County Council	Tuesday 10 a.m.
<u>Astwood Bank Child Welfare Centre</u>	Church Hall Astwood Bank	1 large room	County Council & voluntarily	2nd and 4th Mondays 2 p.m.
<u>Tuberculosis</u>	The Dispensary Elm Road	Waiting Room and Consulting Room	County Council	Friday 2 p.m.

(c) HOSPITALS

HOSPITAL	NAME	SITUATED	BY WHOM PROVIDED
Tuberculosis	W.C.C. and Bromsgrove Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital	Knightwick Bromsgrove and Hayley Green.	Under joint control
Infectious Diseases	Bromsgrove, Droitwich and Redditch Joint Hospital.	Bromsgrove	ditto.
Smallpox	W.C.C.	Worcester	W.C.C.
Maternity	Mary Stevens Lucy Baldwin	Stourbridge Stourport	W.C.C. W.C.C.
Children	Children's Hospital	Birmingham	By arrangement with County Council
Other General	Smallwood Hospital, 37 beds & 2 cots	Redditch	Voluntarily, not Rate-aided
Tonsils and Adenoids	Smallwood Hospital	Redditch	By arrangement with County Council
Venerèal Disease	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council
Puerperal Pyrexia	General Hospital Royal Infirmary	Birmingham Worcester	By arrangement with County Council
Ear, Nose and Throat	Birmingham	Birmingham	By arrangement with County Council

4,363 patients received treatment at the Smallwood Hospital during the year and 1,146 at Birmingham and other Hospitals and Convalescent Homes, a total of 5,509. The number of cases dealt with at the Smallwood Hospital continues to increase. No structural alterations were made to the hospital buildings during the year, and the accommodation consists of 37 beds.

The extensions at the Joint Isolation Hospital at Hill Top, Bromsgrove, have now been completed. Provision is made for 16 additional beds, making a total of 56. In addition to one new ward, a new Nurses' Home, disinfecter and boiler house, a mortuary and caretaker's premises have also been provided.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES

The Council is not a Local Supervising Authority, but there were two Registered Nursing Homes in the area during 1941.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER - (ARTESIAN WELL WATER)

The following are particulars of the mains laid in the Redditch U.D.C. area during 1941:-

Studley Road, Redditch - 2,872 yards 8" mains.

Monthly reports have been received from the Manager of the East Worcestershire Waterworks giving the analysis, chemical and bacteriological, of the mains water supplied to the district. This water has on every occasion been good in quality and fit for drinking.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work on the new sewerage works has proceeded slowly on account of the difficulties of obtaining labour and materials. Everything possible is being done to make the old sewerage works more serviceable and a certain amount of pollution with the River Arrow is unavoidable.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Complaints are received from time to time on the unsatisfactory state of the River Arrow. This state of affairs will be remedied as soon as the new sewerage plant is in working order.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Number of pail closets converted into water closets	Nil
Number of trough closets converted into water closets	5
Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1941:-	
Water Closets	5305
Automatically flushed W.C.'s.	357
Waste Water closets	16
Slop closets	97
Pail closets	480
Earth closets	17

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

There have been no important extensions or improvements in the arrangements for Public Cleansing during the year.

Twenty nine new galvanised dustbins were provided during the year.

House refuse is collected fortnightly and disposed of by "controlled" tipping.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

<u>PREMISES INSPECTED</u>					<u>NO. OF INSPECTIONS</u>
ACCUMULATIONS FOUND	...	...	...	...	31
ANIMALS KEPT -	Piggeries	...	...	...	35
	Stables	...	...	...	11
	Fowls, pigeons, etc.				7
COMPLAINTS -	Total No. investigated	...			181
	(all premises)				
DAIRIES -	Cowsheds	...	...	...	75
	Dairies	...	...	...	40
	Milk shops	...	...	...	15
DISINFECTION -	No. of houses disinfected				19
	" " other buildings disinf.				11
DISINFESTATION -	No. of houses	...	...		18
DRAINAGE -	No. of drains found choked				67
	" " " " defective				19
	" " " tested				14
	Visits to works in progress				129
DWELLING HOUSES -	No. inspected re repairs				375
	Re-inspections	...	...		775
	No. inspected re overcrowding				54
	No. found dirty				20
	" " verminous				18
INFECTIOUS DISEASES-	Visits re Scarlet Fever	...			36
	" " Diphtheria	...			12
	" " other diseases				467
FACTORIES -	With mechanised power	...			70
	Without mechanised power				27
	Bakchouses	...	...	...	28
FOOD PREMISES -	Butcher shops or stalls	...			154
	Ice-cream	...	...	...	26
	Preparation of potted meat, etc.				40
	Fruiterers	...	...	...	17
	Fishmongers and fried fish shops				19
	Restaurants or cafe kitchens				7
MISCELLANEOUS VISITS	No. of visits not otherwise				
	classified				1399
SHOPS ACTS -	...	...	...	...	98
SMOKE ABATEMENT -	No. of observations made				2
TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.	...	...	...	...	69
WATER SUPPLIES -	Visits to premises re wells				51
	No. of samples taken (chem.)				12
	" " " " (bact.)				12

Total No. of inspections 4449

(iv) IMPROVEMENTS

House generally repaired	147
Galvanised ashbins provided	29
Drains reconstructed	7
Choked drains cleansed	56
Verminous premises disinfested	18

(v) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Two council houses and one other house were found to be infested with bed bugs. Liquid insecticide is used for disinfection and "Zaldecide" is found to be the most effective. The premises are examined 10 - 14 days after treatment.

SECTION D.

Housing

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	375
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	375
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..	85
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	162

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers,	44
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | Nil |
| (b) By local authority in default of Owners .. | Nil |

(b) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 118 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:- | |
| (a) By Owners | 103 |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners .. | Nil |

(c) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

(d) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 61 |
| | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. | 63 |
| | (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. | 423 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 4 |
| (c) | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 2 |
| | (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. | 11 |
| (d) | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES, with mechanical power	70	Nil	Nil
FACTORIES, without mechanical power	27	Nil	Nil
xOTHER PREMISES, under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
xElectrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
TOTAL:	97	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) insufficient)	5	5	-	Nil
Unsuitable or defective ..	5	5	-	Nil
not separate for sexes ..	1	1	-	Nil
Other offences	-	-	-	Nil
TOTAL:	14	14	Nil	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

The Register contains 94 Retail Purveyors and 74 Wholesale Traders and Producers. During the year 130 inspections were made.

Licences granted during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, are as follows:-

Pasteurised (to bottle and sell)	1
Tuberculin Tested (to bottle and sell)	1
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)	1
Accredited (Dealers)	1
Pasteurised (Dealers)	8

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(i) Licences were granted for the use and occupation of the following slaughterhouses:-

Adkin's slaughterhouse,	off Easemore Road.
Humphries'	" " " "
Sollis'	" Arrow Road.
Bird's	" The Meadway.
Betterton's	High Street, Astwood Bank.
Clarke's	High Street, Feckenham.

(ii) The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption, during 1941:-

143 tins of various foodstuffs.	70 lbs. of Fish.
15 lbs. of Bacon.	90 lbs. of Pressed Beef.
9 lbs. of Cheese.	136 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of Beef.
56 lbs. of Butter.	54 lbs. of Brawn.
1019 Eggs.	10 lbs. of Tripe.
132 lbs. of Onions.	12 Rabbits.

(iii) The following licences were granted during the year for the retailing of ice-cream and for the manufacture of sausages or other preserved foods.

Premises at which ice-cream is retailed	.. .. 1
Premises used for the preparation or manufacture of preserved foods	.. .. .. 2

During the year 263 inspections were made.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. SCARLET FEVER

36 cases (17 males and 19 females) were notified compared with 88 in the previous year. 25 were removed to hospital and 11 were isolated at home. The disease was, on the whole, mild in type.

2. DIPHTHERIA

12 cases (6 males and 6 females) were notified compared with 11 in the previous year. There were 2 deaths. All the cases were removed to hospital, and none had been immunised.

IMMUNISATION

1160 children were immunised in 1941, (of these 136 were under school age) compared with 150 in 1940. The total of immunised children in Redditch now totals 3,487 (i.e. December 31st, 1941).

The following tables show the numbers treated at the various schools in 1941:-

School	M	F	Total
Bridge Street Girls' School	-	67	67
Bridge Street Boys' School	47	-	47
Bridge Street Infants' School	8	14	22
St. Stephen's Girls' School	-	71	71
St. Stephen's Boys' School	143	-	143
St. Stephen's Infants' School	16	15	31
St. George's Mixed School	44	38	82
Mt. Carmel R.C. School	2	1	3
Ipsley Street Infants'	5	13	18
County High School, Girls'	-	46	46
County High School, Boys'	20	-	20
Headless Cross School, Girls'	-	35	35
Headless Cross School, Boys'	43	-	43
Headless Cross Infants'	19	12	31
Crabbs Cross School, Girls'	-	14	14
Crabbs Cross School, Boys'	25	-	25
Crabbs Cross Infants'	10	7	17
Astwood Bank School, Girls'	-	41	41
Astwood Bank School, Boys'	28	-	28
Astwood Bank School, Infants'	8	8	16
Fockenham School	1	-	1
Under School Age)	111	92	203
County Day Nursery)	25	13	38
Out-lying	2	-	2
Miss Heaphy's Preparatory School	-	4	4
Felixstowe County School (evacuated to Redditch)			
Girls'	-	57	57
Boys'	55	-	55
TOTALS:	612	548	1160

The following tables show the number of cases immunised and the number of cases of Diphtheria since 1933:-

No. of cases immunised

1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	
90	884	438	153	139	175	298	150	1160	Total - 3,487

No. of Diphtheria cases

1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	
105	107	19	21	18	29	46	11	12	Total - 368

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1941.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	36	25	-
Diphtheria	12	12	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	5	-
Pneumonia	19	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	1
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	7	7	3
Measles	587	-	1
Whooping Cough	16	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	..	..	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5	..	..	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
15	..	..	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	2
25	..	..	6	1	-	-	3	1	-	1
35	..	..	4	2	-	-	3	1	-	-
45	..	..	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55	..	..	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards			-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
TOTALS			14	8	2	3	8	3	1	3

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS,

Medical Officer of Health.

